



## SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

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February 28, 2020

Honorable Donna L. Stashyn  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Solano  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**Re: Sheriff-Coroner's Response to 2019-2020 Solano County Grand Jury Report – Rourk Vocational Training Center "Big Facility-Few Inmates"**

Judge Stashyn:

Under Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, I am responding to the following recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report that pertain to matters under my control as the Solano County Sheriff-Coroner:

**Finding 1** – *At the time of our tour the Rourk facility was underutilized; it has the capacity to train more than one hundred inmates but was training only four.*

**Response to Finding 1** – I disagree partially with the finding. For the purpose of clarification, although there were only four inmates training at the time of the Grand Jury tour, we have trained 40 inmates in the Rourk facility since it's opening 10 months prior. Developing plans for increasing its usage is an ongoing mission of ours for the facility.

**Recommendation 1a** – *The Sheriff's Office fast track the development of plans to utilize the facility to its full potential.*

**Response to Recommendation 1a** – The recommendation has been implemented with the development and implementation of multiple programs to include: Employment soft skills, Educational Re-entry classroom programs, Forklift training, Welding and Labor Pre-apprenticeship trainings.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office has many programs being developed for future implementation in the next year to include: Automotive Technician training, Advanced Welding, Scissor Lift Training, Safety Harness Training, Truck Driving Training and Cosmetology.

**Recommendation 1b** – *The Sheriff's Office use employment data trends for the future to plan and implement offerings.*

**Response to Recommendation 1b** – The recommendation will be implemented over the course of the following year as we continue to form relationships with vocation training providers.

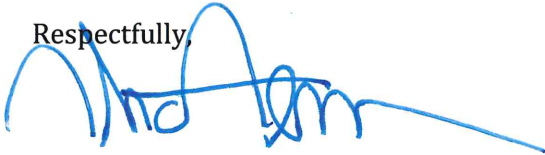
*Dedicated to Community Service*

**Recommendation 1c** – *The Sheriff's Office seek additional partners and entities to utilize this facility.*

**Response to Recommendation 1c** – The recommendation will be implemented in the next fiscal year and beyond. The Sheriff's Office is looking to expand our relationship with the Probation Department to include individuals under their control. The Sheriff's Office is also looking at creating relationships with neighboring counties to provide vocation training opportunities.

I would like to thank the Solano County Grand Jury for their time invested in this matter and for their report of findings and recommendations. As always, the recommendations and comments of the Solano County Grand Jury are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Thomas A. Ferrara  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Solano County Grand Jury  
County Administrator's Office